

do well to follow his lead in standing for strong support of Affirmative Action.

The reason Affirmative Action is needed is due to the historic experience of Blacks in America. The experience of Blacks in this country is without analogue and is unique due to the nature of American enslavement of millions of Blacks during the founding of the republic and thereafter. The political, social, cultural and economic effect of racial exclusion because of slavery, which continued in the form of Jim Crow laws and currently operate through more subtle forms of racial prejudice, result in Black Americans having a special and unique set of claims for redress by the body politic.

This month you celebrated the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and pledged yourself to renewed efforts toward equal opportunity. The way to turn your words into something beyond empty rhetoric is to support concrete action towards equal opportunity in the form of Affirmative Action. Even Dr. King called for "compensatory measures" to help Blacks approach parity in employment opportunities, income wealth, entrepreneurship and other indicators of well being in this country. While we believe that race should not be the only factor in Affirmative Action efforts, we do believe that it is valid to take account of race as a factor when opportunities are distributed among people in society today.

With greater effort expended by your Administration and others yet to come, we look forward to the day when Affirmative Action will no longer be necessary. That will be when America has finally attained the level of equal opportunity, inclusion and sense of beloved community for all citizens.

The Black community seeks the opportunity to be strengthened so that eventually it can stand upon its own feet, having the effects of past racial exclusion and discrimination erased and able to enter into the fullness of the blessings of America. Your Administration's active support of the Black community in this matter could be among the greatest legacies of the party of Lincoln.

We pledge to pray for you and your administration that you might encounter the Divine Wisdom in this matter.

In Christ,

G. E. PATTERSON,
Presiding Bishop.

The General Board: C. E. Blake; C. D. Owens; L. E. Willis; J. N. Haynes; P. A. Brooks; G. D. McKinney; W. W. Hamilton; L. R. Anderson; N. W. Wells; R. L. H. Winbush; S. L. Green, Jr.

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF MARY SLAMA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and remembrance of Mary Slama—Beloved wife, cherished mother and grandmother, and friend and mentor to many.

Mary leaves behind a legacy of professionalism, volunteerism, journalistic talent, and sincere concern for her community. Driven by a passion for learning and personal growth, Mary attained a Bachelor's degree and later a Master's degree in English. She led the West Life newspaper as reporter, then editor, with fairness, accuracy, wit and heart. Mary kept west side readers well informed and updated on news stories ranging from local community and political news to human interest stories.

Mary's high level of energy and great enthusiasm for life radiated throughout her every endeavor. Her vital work on behalf of my Congressional campaign raised the spirits of those around her, and inspired others to do their best. Moreover, Mary's wonderful sense of humor and kind nature consistently served to soften even the harshest of personalities.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and remembrance of Mary Slama—Community advocate, and friend and mentor to countless, including me. I offer my deepest condolences to her beloved husband, Bill; beloved son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Marilyn; cherished grandchildren Natalie and Patrick, and to her many colleagues and friends. Her kind nature, journalistic talent and ability to connect with others have made our corner of the world a better place. Mary Slama's friendship, significant work, and concern for our community will be remembered always.

SPARE THE LIFE OF DEVINDER PAL SINGH BHULLAR

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, Devinder Singh Pal Bhullar faces the death penalty. He should be spared. His pending execution shows that the Indian constitution only protects the Hindu majority.

Bhullar was accused of being involved in a 1993 bombing near the offices of the Youth Congress in Delhi. 20 people were killed in that blast and Congress leader M.S. Bitta lost a leg.

This might be a justifiable sentence for such a crime except for a few small details. Mr. Bhullar was found "not guilty" by the presiding judge of a three-judge panel from India's Supreme Court. The judge directed that he be released. Apparently, that was not acceptable to the fundamentalist Hindu nationalist regime. So they tortured him to coerce him into signing a false confession which was subsequently retracted. Yet they are executing him on the basis of this forced confession.

This is offensive to anyone with a sense of justice. Mr. Speaker. This is not the way a democratic country does things. It is how criminal cases are handled in such models of democracy as Red China and Iraq. Meanwhile, Sajjan Kumar and H.K.L. Bhagat, the officials responsible for inciting the murders of thousands of Sikhs in Delhi, have never been brought to justice.

Unfortunately, this is typical of how India treats its minorities. Last year in Gujarat 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims were murdered by militant Hindu nationalists while police, under orders, stood by and did nothing. No one has been punished for this atrocity. Now police in Gujarat are demanding very intrusive information about Christians there. Meanwhile, two states have enacted laws prohibiting religious conversions—except to Hinduism, of course.

Police have murdered over a quarter of a million Sikhs, over 200,000 Christians in Nagaland, over 85,000 Muslims in Kashmir, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalit "untouchables," Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. Indian forces were caught

red-handed in a village in Kashmir trying to set fire to the Sikh Gurdwara and some homes there. Two studies have shown that Indian forces carried out the massacre of 35 Sikhs in Chithisinghpura three years ago this month.

Missionary Graham Staines and his two sons were murdered by being burned to death in their jeep while the killers surrounded the jeep and chanted "Victory to Hannuman." Missionary Joseph Cooper was severely beaten and had to spend a week in the hospital. Then he was expelled from the country for preaching. The widow of Mr. Staines was also expelled from India. Christian churches have been burned and schools and prayer halls have been violently attacked with impunity. There have been priests murdered and nuns raped.

In 1995, Indian police picked up human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa did a study of cremation grounds in Punjab which showed that thousands of Sikhs have been picked up, tortured, murdered, then declared "unidentified" and secretly cremated. For his efforts, Khalsa was picked up by the police and murdered while in police custody. More than 52,000 Sikhs sit in jail as political prisoners without charge or trial.

The time has come to stop our aid to India. We should also support the self-determination to which all peoples and nations are entitled. This is the only way to end atrocities such as these and to ensure peace, freedom, stability, and prosperity in South Asia.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to place the Council of Khalistan's outstanding press release on the Bhullar case into the RECORD.

DEVINDER PAL SINGH BHULLAR'S LIFE MUST
BE SPARED

MINORITIES ELIMINATED, DIRECTLY OR BY
COURTS

WASHINGTON, DC, Feb. 25, 2003.—The impending execution of Devinder Pal Singh Bhullar shows that the Constitution of India only protects the majority Hindu population, according to Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, which leads the Sikh struggle for independence from India. Dr. Aulakh called on the President of India to stop the execution. Bhullar was accused of a 1993 bomb blast near the Youth Congress office in Delhi in which 20 people were killed. Congress leader M.S. Bitta lost a leg in that attack.

The presiding Judge of a three-Judge bench in the Supreme Court of India found Professor Bhullar, a political activist, "Not Guilty" and directed that he be released. However, Professor Bhullar was convicted based on a forced confession obtained through torture, which was retracted. On that basis India wants to impose capital punishment on Professor Bhullar. Sajjan Kumar and H.K.L. Bhagat, who personally incited the murder of thousands of Sikhs in Delhi, go off scot-free without any punishment. Even by Indian standards, this is an outrageous miscarriage of justice.

"The Bhullar case is merely the latest example of how India eliminates minorities," said Dr. Aulakh. Indian police arrested human-rights activist Jaswant Singh Khalsa after he exposed their policy of mass cremation of Sikhs, in which over 50,000 Sikhs have been picked up, tortured, and killed, then their bodies are declared unidentified and secretly cremated. Then Mr. Khalsa was murdered in police custody. His body was not given to his family. Similarly, the police murdered former Jathedar of the Akal Takht Gurdev Singh Kaunke. His body was not handed over to his family.

Last spring the Indian police stood aside under orders while militant Hindus murdered 2,000 to 5,000 Muslims in Gujarat. Australian missionary Graham Staines was murdered a few years ago by VHP activists. Staines and his two young sons were burned to death while they slept in their jeep. Their killers surrounded the jeep and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god. After the murder, Staines' widow, who was working with lepers, was expelled from India. No one was ever punished for these atrocities. Nuns have been raped, priests have been murdered, and Christian churches have been burned by the fanatic, fundamentalist Hindu nationalist militants.

"It is clear from these actions that India is not the democracy it claims to be," said Dr. Aulakh. "Instead it is a tyrannical Hindu theocracy where minorities die or disappear," he said. "There is a consistent pattern of Indian government efforts to protect its tyrannical rule over the minorities of South Asia."

The Indian government has murdered over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, more than 200,000 Christians since 1948, over 85,000 Muslims in Kashmir since 1988, and tens of thousands of Tamils, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits (the aboriginal people of the subcontinent), and others. More than 52,000 Sikhs are being held as political prisoners. The Indian Supreme Court called the Indian government's murders of Sikhs "worse than a genocide." On October 7, 1987, the Sikh Nation declared the independence of its homeland, Punjab, Khalistan. No Sikh representative has ever signed the Indian constitution. The Council of Khalistan is the government pro tempore of Khalistan, the Sikh homeland. The Sikh Nation demands freedom for its homeland, Khalistan.

"Only in a free and sovereign Khalistan will the Sikh Nation prosper. In a democracy, the right to self-determination is the sine qua non and India should allow a plebiscite for the freedom of the Sikh Nation and all the nations of South Asia," Dr. Aulakh said.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE HONORABLE MILTON B. ALLEN

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay respect to the life of a great man who passed away—my friend and mentor, the Honorable Milton B. Allen. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in remembering the life of a brilliant man, the Honorable Milton B. Allen—a brilliant lawyer, judge, father, husband, mentor, community activist and leader. A life that ended last week when the Judge Allen, at 85, died of cardiac arrest at his home in Windsor Hills.

Milton Allen was a man of humble beginnings, who rose to great heights as a polished lawyer and fair jurist. He attended Douglass High School in Baltimore, Maryland where he played third-string fullback on the football team and haunted the library. He read everything he could find. He later went on to Coppin State College to become a teacher.

"Simple reason," he said one day. "Teaching was about the only thing open to blacks then."

Mr. Speaker, Milton Allen was a teacher in the freedom schools of our time. As a young

man in the Navy, Milton Allen taught other young men of color the skills that would allow them to advance in their military careers—this during a time when no men of color could advance past that of seaman. As a lawyer, he taught thousands of his neighbors how to find a path to justice within the arcane corridors of the law.

As Baltimore City's first African American State's Attorney—the first Black prosecutor in any major American city—Milton Allen taught our community that the pursuit of justice could, indeed, be "color-blind." He sued the city to desegregate "public" tennis courts and defended people who lost their jobs for attending public meetings where speakers included communist sympathizers, as he believed that free speech should be protected in America. He also sued the state to open "public" colleges to blacks.

Later in life as a judge on what would later become Baltimore's Circuit Court, Milton Allen helped many of the City's troubled youth by giving through his seasoned advice as a family court judge.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity to work for Milton Allen after he had lost his re-election bid for State's Attorney. He had joined the law firm of Mitchell, Allen and Lee, and I served as the firm's law clerk. Mr. Speaker, Milton Allen, although always busy and always blazing a trail for righteousness, always found time to stop to engage even strangers in meaningful conversation. He was always giving helpful advice.

In fact, the advice and counsel that I received from Milton Allen went far beyond his contribution to the skills that made me a more capable attorney. Judge Allen taught young lawyers like me that our calling demanded constant devotion to integrity.

And Mr. Speaker, Judge Allen exemplified integrity. As Dr. Stephen Carter once observed:

Persons of integrity know the difference between what is right and what is wrong. They stand up for what is right—even when that stand may place them in jeopardy. Persons of integrity persevere and lead—until the rest of the world catches on and catches up. And they are not afraid to proclaim their vision of what is right—so others can follow in their steps.

Dr. Carter could have been writing about my friend—and teacher—Judge Milton B. Allen. Judge Allen devoted his life to planting the seeds of justice within the human spirit. He taught us that, in a free society, the seeds of justice can take hold and grow.

Mr. Speaker—most important of all—Milton Allen taught my community that justice grows best in the shared soil of universal respect. The source of justice is the integrity that comes from our respect for each other as human beings. Milton Allen was a teacher and a friend. Our lives will be less for his passing—but we have been truly enriched by his living. Milton Allen paved the way for so many lawyers who never even had the privilege of knowing him.

In the words of the theologian, Max Lucado, "The great revivals and reformations that dot the history of humanity were never the work of just one person. Every movement is the sum of visionaries who have gone before, generations of uncompromised lives and non-negotiated truths. Faithful men and women who have led forceful lives." Mr. Allen was this kind of human being. And I will miss him.

WORKFORCE REINVESTMENT AND ADULT EDUCATION ACT OF 2003

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" McKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 13, 2003

Mr. McKEON. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Workforce Reinvestment and Adult Education Act of 2003 to reauthorize the nation's job training system, as well as adult education and vocational rehabilitation programs. This legislation builds upon and improves the systems created in the Workforce Investment Act of 1998. We have worked closely with the Administration to craft legislation to continue to empower individuals in improving their careers.

In 1998, under the Education and the Workforce Committee's leadership, Congress passed the Workforce Investment Act to reform the nation's job training system that formerly was fragmented, contained overlapping programs, and did not serve either job seekers or employers well. WIA consolidated and integrated employment and training services at the local level in a more unified workforce development system. Local, business-led workforce investment boards direct the activities of the system.

One of the hallmarks of the new system is that, in order to encourage the development of comprehensive systems that improve services to both employers and job seekers, local services are provided through a one-stop delivery system. At the one-stop centers, assistance ranges from core services such as job search and placement assistance, access to job listings, and an initial assessment of skills and needs; intensive services such as comprehensive assessments and case management; and, if needed, occupational skills training.

The WIA system contains the federal government's primary programs for investment in our nation's workforce preparation. Even though the system is still maturing since its full implementation in July 2000, States and local areas have created comprehensive services and effective one-stop delivery systems. The system is serving the needs of unemployed workers seeking new jobs in this time of economic recovery. In addition, the training services provided through WIA are invaluable in helping employers find the workers they need in areas of the country facing skill shortages.

Nonetheless, there have been challenges with the system. There is a need to increase the financial contribution of the mandatory partners in the One-Stop Career Centers while at the same time increasing the service integration among the partner programs. This includes serving through the one-stop system special populations that have unique needs. We are concerned that administrative duplication remains in the system, resulting in unnecessary bureaucracy that dilutes the ability of states and local areas to address their communities' needs. There is also a need to simplify the local and state governance processes and to strengthen the private sector's role. Additionally, we need to increase training opportunities and improve performance accountability.

This bill also aims to streamline current WIA funding in order to provide more efficient and results-oriented services and programs,